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ABSTRACT

During the past year, in cases involving the authority of school boards to make curricular decisions and provide for services, the courts have balanced school board authority against constitutional and statutory provisions related to privacy, free exercise of religion, and public records laws. Section 1, "School Boards and Board Members," outlines requirements for community service, the closing of schools; conflict of interest issues, condom distribution, textbook selection, and allegations of "biased curriculum." Section 2, "Administrators," scrutinizes teacher layoffs, reassignment, subordinates' free speech rights, and removal or alteration of records. Section 3, "Finance," assesses income tax deductions for private schooling;, facilities impact fees, and auditing requirements. Section 4, "Teachers and Other District Employees," considers "whistle blower" statutes, espousal of creationism, First Amendment protection, sex discrimination, teacher dismissal, and application of physical force. Section 5, "Pupils," appraises accountability for off-campus conduct, strip searches, search and seizure, sexual harassment, accessibility, and individualized education plans. Section 6, "Religion," outlines violations of the Establishment Clause and regulations of student-directed religious activities. Section 7, "Torts and Related Statutory Liability," discusses liability for injuries, duty of adequate supervision, liability for safety of sport spectators; right-to-privacy provisions, and allegations of homosexuality. Includes a list of cases. (Contains 98 references.) (TEJ)

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